

**BULLETIN TEMPLATE: Minnesota Valley Church**  
**Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**  
**Date: Sunday, April 9, 2022**  
**Church Year Date: Resurrection Sunday**

*Thank you, dear musicians, for your dedication to leading us in the worship of our great Savior. Pastor Tom*

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

Call to Worship: Psalm 118:15-29

Hymn #104 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Children’s Song:

Scripture Reading: Job 19:25-27

Hymn #111 “Low in the Grave He Lay”

Reader: Jacob O’Flanagan

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Confession of Faith: (please put on screen)

**Apostles’ Creed:** *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen*

Chorus (#545): *Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because he lives, all fear is gone; Because I know—He holds the future, And life is worth the living, just because He lives. (2x)*

Greeting, Announcements, Prayer  
Praise and Worship Medley

**MESSAGE: “BECOMING RESURRECTION PEOPLE”**  
**Mark 16:1-8, Pastor Tom Olson, [minnesotavalleychurch.org](http://minnesotavalleychurch.org)**  
*Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

CHANGES: The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a game changer. It changes everything. It changes us. It saves our lost souls. It changes our lives. We move from the grief of Good Friday to the joy of Resurrection Sunday.

TRANSFORMED: We see this change so clearly in the women who went to the tomb. In a moment...SNAP...their whole LIFE was totally transformed. Mark 16:1-8; “BECOMING RESURRECTION PEOPLE.” Let’s talk about it.

**I. THE SAD ASSUMPTION** *Mark 16:1-8 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”*

UNBELIEF: We could easily be critical of these women who came to the tomb to finish embalming the dead body of Jesus. They all had many opportunities to clearly hear what he said about rising from the dead on the third day. They simply could not believe it and assumed the worst, that he was dead, forever dead. Jesus said repeatedly: (*Matthew 17:22-23 ... he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. 23 They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life..."*)

THEM: When Jesus told them these things, what did they hear? They only heard the part about being killed. The part about rising from the dead didn’t sink in.

US: We are no different from them. The Bible is filled with great and precious promises from God and we just don’t believe them by faith. Our doubt is too big. And our lives are filled with amazing provision and miracles every day and we don’t see it. When is the

last time you thanked God for the ability to walk or talk or read?  
...all blessings that we don't appreciate until we lose them.

NEGATIVE: We, like these women, have the ability to assume the worst, in spite of the promises Jesus has given to us. Negative thoughts come so much more easily than positive ones. We can learn about ourselves from what we see in these women...blinded by their very own unbelief. The first step in BECOMING A RESURRECTION PEOPLE is to ADMIT that we have a tendency toward unbelief. I have said many times that my GREATEST SIN is unbelief. Then we next see...

**II. THE HAPPY REALITY** *Mark 16:4-6 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.*

INDEPENDENT: The HAPPY REALITY is that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead did not depend upon their faith. It happened apart from the help of any person. God sovereignly chose to raise His son, from the dead. Even before Jesus was raised from the dead, He was busy doing many amazing things.

*(1 Peter 3:19-20 He went and preached to the spirits in prison 20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.)*

Notice in our text that:

1. THE LARGE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY: They were worried about how to do that. It was done. It is said that 95% of what we worry about never comes to pass!
2. AN ANGEL WAS IN THE TOMB TO GREET THEM: This is a reminder that even in the darkest of all places, God goes ahead of us. When I had cancer, I sensed that God was going ahead of me

when they led me into surgery and when they bolted me down to a table to zap me with radiation.

3. THE ANGEL TELLS THEM NOT TO BE ALARMED: We so easily react and jump to conclusions. They immediately thought the body was stolen. God knows that it is very important for us to be peaceful in tough situations. If we allow ourselves to get riled up, we will make big mistakes. Let me repeat that: If we allow ourselves to get riled up, we will make big mistakes. **Our first step toward walking in faith is to get calmed down.** *Psalm 46:10&11 "Be still and know that I am God...the Lord Almighty is with us..."* To be RESURRECTION PEOPLE we need to learn to RESPOND, rather than REACT.

4. THE ANGEL GIVES THEM GOOD NEWS: THE HAPPY REALITY IS THIS: He is risen! You and I really should make every day, Resurrection Day, and repeat those words, HE IS RISEN! When negative news comes our way, it is the best response: CHRIST IS RISEN...say it with me when I point to you:

- Sir, you have six months to live: R: CHRIST IS RISEN
- Sir, your job is terminated: R: CHRIST IS RISEN
- Sir, you can no longer stay in your house alone...you must go to a nursing home: R: CHRIST IS RISEN

REALITY: I want to learn to bathe everything in the HAPPY REALITY, that Christ is Risen from the dead and better days are just around the corner because of it.

PREPARATION: Sharon and I plan on meeting with Pastor Anderson to talk about getting our earthly affairs in order to prepare for death, which really isn't more than just a few short years away for either of us. But that is not a negative thought at all because of the happy reality, CHRIST IS RISEN. We are just a few years away from the beginning of the best part of the story for us! THE HAPPY REALITY is that WE ARE RESURRECTION PEOPLE! Thirdly,

**III. AN AMAZING REQUEST** *Mark 16:7-8 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There*

*you will see him, just as he told you." 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

ASSIGNMENT: In light of all this, we are given one simple assignment. The women were told to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was going to meet them in Galilee. And we are given the same assignment. (*Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*)

ALL: I love this verse because it reminds me that I am to talk to ALL CREATION, not just people. Tell your dog the good news. Tell the rivers, trees and mountains the good news. Tell the good news of the gospel to all people. Tell them about Jesus, tell them your testimony. No one can disagree with your testimony. Tell it with words, tell it with deeds and most of all, tell it WITH LOVE.

FEAR: But what did the women do? It says here (***THEY SAID NOTHING TO ANYONE...BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID.***) We have the same tendency. There is a whole world waiting to hear some good news and we have the best news about FORGIVENESS OF SINS and ETERNAL LIFE, paid in full by the blood of the Lamb...the crucified and RISEN Lord Jesus Christ.

FEARLESS: I used to be amazed when I had lunch with Pastor Don Richman. He would never get out of the restaurant without finding out if the waitress knew the Lord and if he or she would care to hear the gospel. He was fearless and winsome. What an example to me.

WORTHLESS: All of our possessions eventually become quite worthless as we age. But the one thing that we can hang on to forever is the souls that come to the Lord through our witness. My great goal for our church is for us to be a SOUL WINNING CHURCH that tells the people in our lives the GOOD NEWS that CHRIST IS RISEN. That will be the thing we are most happy we did when we let go of this life and enter into our eternal home in heaven.

REMEMBER: We are RESURRECTION PEOPLE...let's remember that every day.

REMEMBER THAT THE MINUTE YOU STEP INTO HEAVEN, YOUR LOSSES WILL BECOME GAINS, YOUR PAIN WILL BECOME PLEASURE AND YOUR CRYING WILL BE TURNED TO SHOUTS OF JOY! Why? Because CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! Amen

“Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus.” Amen

Hymn #527 “I Serve a Risen Savior”  
Closing Prayer & Lord’s Prayer  
Benediction  
Hymn #545 “Because He Lives”  
Postlude: Rebekah Olson